

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 19 and 24 have been amended to clarify that the cassette according to the present invention detects a radiographed medical image, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 52, lines 7-16, page 53, line 6 to page 54, line 7, page 58, lines 12-16, and page 92, lines 9-22.

In addition, independent claims 25 and 30 have been amended to recite a control section which identifies the inputted doctor identification information and which permits input of additional radiographing order information when the inputted doctor identification is identified, and that the display displays an addition input screen for inputting the additional radiographing order information when the doctor identification information is identified by the control section, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 128, line 16 to page 129, line 3, and page 143, lines 3-13.

Still further, claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 have been amended to make some clarifying amendments with respect to renewal of the radiographing order information, based on the disclosure in the

specification at, for example, page 137, line 7 to page 138, line 8.

Yet still further, claims 1-46 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent. In this connection, it is noted that the informalities pointed out by the Examiner in item 1 of the Office Action have been corrected.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

RE: THE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's allowance of claims 31 is respectfully acknowledged. In this connection, in item 6 on page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "None of the prior art discloses a medical image radiographing system that contains a portable terminal comprising two control sections and two communication section [sic] that communicates directly with the portable terminal."

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that according to the present invention as recited in claims 31-34, the portable terminal comprises a first communication section and a first

control section, and the control apparatus comprises a second communication section and a second control section.

In any event, it is respectfully submitted that claims 31-34, along with amended claims 1-30 and 35-46, recite allowable subject matter that patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record, as described in detail hereinbelow.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-30 and 35-46 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,954,767 ("Kanada") with one or both of USP 6,678,703 ("Rothschild et al") and USP 6,661,846 ("Stoodley"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As recited in amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 19 and 24, the cassette according to the present invention detects a radiographed medical image. That is, the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 7, 13, 14, 19 and 24 relates to a medical image radiographing system for taking medical images during the rounds of a doctor using a portable cassette which incorporates a photostimulable phosphor substance sheet for forming a radiographed medical image.

More specifically, according to the claimed present invention, a radiographic medical image is taken based on

radiographing order information. The medical image radiographing system of the claimed present invention comprises a control apparatus and a portable terminal carried by an operator of radiographic equipment for obtaining the radiographing order information from the control apparatus and for transmitting the identification information of the cassette correlated with the radiographing order information. In particular, the determination section of the control apparatus determines whether the received radiographing order information agrees with the stored radiographing order information, and the management section of the control apparatus correlates the stored radiographing order information with the identification information of the cassette according to a result determined by the determination section. Specifically, for example, the management section renews the stored radiographing order information to the received radiographing order information. And the medical image radiographing method of the claimed present invention comprises corresponding features.

In addition, as recited in amended independent claims 25 and 30, a control section is provided which identifies the inputted doctor identification information and which permits input of additional radiographing order information when the inputted doctor identification is identified, and an addition input screen

is displayed for inputting the additional radiographing order information when the doctor identification information is identified by the control section. Thus, it is possible to add additional radiographing order information on an addition input screen of the portable terminal when doctor identification information is inputted and verified.

According to the claimed present invention, moreover, it is also possible to input a radiographing history information in the control apparatus when the radiographing history information cannot be received from the portable terminal.

Still further, according to the claimed present invention, it is also possible to compare the radiographing order information transmitted from the control section to the portable terminal with the radiographing result.

Thus, as described above, the claimed present invention relates to management of radiographing order information with respect to radiographing to be executed (in the future).

By contrast, Kanada merely discloses a technique for searching a desired image from databases according to search information from a search requestor, and for transmitting a search result including textual information to the search requestor. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kanada does not relate to the management of radiographing information with

respect to radiographing to be executed (in the future), and that the technical field of Kanada is completely different from that of the claimed present invention.

Rothschild et al, moreover, relates to a transmission system for medical images, and also does not relate to the management of radiographing information with respect to radiographing to be executed (in the future). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the technical field of Rothschild et al is also different from that of the claimed present invention.

Still further, Stoodley relates to a technique for analyzing a collection of medical patient data through the use of a medical database. That is, Stoodley relates to the analysis of medical data which has already been acquired, and also does not relate to the management of radiographing information with respect to radiographing to be executed (in the future). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the technical field of Stoodley is also different from that of the claimed present invention.

With respect to the present invention as recited in amended claims 1-24, the archiving apparatus (optical disk) of Kanada does not correspond to the cassette of the present invention which detects a radiographic medical image as described above. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that the optical disk of Kanada merely stores past images of a patient.

With respect to the present invention as recited in amended claims 25-30, it is respectfully pointed out that the "order for image searching and fetching" disclosed in Kanada does not correspond to the "radiographing order information" of the present invention which relates to radiographing to be executed. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that the "order for image searching and fetching" in Kanada relates to an acquisition of images that have already been radiographed and stored. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that none of the references disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 25 and 30 whereby a control section is provided which identifies the inputted doctor identification information and which permits input of additional radiographing order information when the inputted doctor identification is identified, and an addition input screen is displayed for inputting the additional radiographing order information when the doctor identification information is identified by the control section.

With respect to the present invention as recited in amended claims 31-38, moreover, it is again respectfully pointed out that the "order for image searching and fetching" disclosed in Kanada does not correspond to the "radiographing order information" of the present invention which relates to radiographing to be

executed. In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that the "past-image acquisition condition" disclosed in Kanada does not correspond to the "radiographing history information" of the present invention as recited in amended claims 31-38. The radiographing history information of the present invention is a record of radiographing which has been executed according to the radiographing order information, and includes the operator ID, the cassette ID and the radiographing apparatus ID. By contrast, the past-image acquisition condition disclosed in Kanada is a combination of image recording modality and image requesting department which is required for pre-fetching a past image.

And finally, with respect to the present invention as recited in amended claims 39-46, it is again respectfully pointed out that the "order for image searching and fetching" disclosed in Kanada (which relates to an acquisition of images that have already been radiographed and stored) does not correspond to the "radiographing order information" of the present invention which relates to radiographing to be executed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended claims 1-46 clearly patentably distinguishes over Kanada, taken singly or in combination with Rothschild et al and/or Stoodley consistent with the respective fair teachings thereof, under 35 USC 103.

RE: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement with respect to USP 5,865,745 ("Schmitt et al").

Schmitt et al discloses a prior art remote health care input apparatus. In particular, Schmitt et al discloses acquiring an ID of a cassette by a bar-code scanner and transmitting the ID to a control apparatus.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Schmitt et al does not disclose determining whether received radiographing order information agrees with stored radiographing order information or renewing the stored radiographing order information to the received radiographing order information, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claims 1-24.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that Schmitt et al does not disclose requiring the doctor identification when an additional radiographing order information is inputted, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claims 25-30.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that Schmitt et al does not disclose inputting radiographing history information when the portable terminal cannot transmit it to the control apparatus, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claims 31-38.

And yet still further, it is respectfully pointed out that Schmitt et al does not disclose checking the radiographing result with the radiographing order information transmitted from the control section to the portable terminal, as according to the present invention as recited in amended claims 39-46.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of all of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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